

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Teresa M. Espana.

Information: In a public comment about Applicant that was submitted by Larry Mullen, who identified himself as a county councilor for the Fresno County Green Party, Mr. Mullen stated that Applicant "helped put on a retreat for the Green Party in Fresno." Bureau staff also found a message board posting on the internet that identified Applicant as one of three persons charged with selecting a representative to the State Green Party Coordinating Committee for the Central (California) Greens. Bureau staff therefore asked Applicant to provide more information about her activities with the Green Party. Applicant responded that despite serving on the election committee, she never served in a leadership position with the Party or on any Green Party Central Committee.

In the "Activities" section of her supplemental application, the Applicant stated that in 2008 she "volunteered (making phone calls, walking precincts) on behalf of a presidential and mayoral candidate from parties different than my own." Staff therefore asked Applicant to provide more information about the political activities in which she was involved. Applicant told staff that the presidential candidate was Barack Obama and the mayoral candidate was Ashley Swearengin. While Fresno mayoral elections are nonpartisan, *The Fresno Bee* claimed that Ms. Swearengin campaigned on a "Republican-like platform."

Staff research discovered that Applicant has been quoted several times over the years in *The San Francisco Chronicle* regarding political issues. Two of the articles concerned the election to recall Governor Gray Davis and potential candidates to replace him. According to a late September 2003 article: "Fresno resident Teresa España says she will vote strategically as well, even though her true choice is Green Party candidate Peter Camejo. She says she will vote "yes" on the recall and "yes" on Bustamante." ... The article also quoted Applicant as saying: "Bustamante is a local guy who I've worked with on local campaigns, and it would be great to see a Latino in such a high office, even if he's not my first-choice Latino." Then according to an early October 2003 article: "Teresa España never supported Gray Davis, signed a petition for the Governor's recall, and until recently was dead-set on voting to kick him out of office. Now, she

may be Davis' only hope.” This article also states, “España, a 42-year-old Green Party member from Fresno, has changed her mind. On Tuesday she will vote against the recall and for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante.” According to the article stated: “There's just too much at stake, and I'm pretty concerned that (Republican Arnold) Schwarzenegger is going to win.”

Staff research also found Applicant’s published political opinions have extended to national politics; as a November 2004 posting at SF Gate (the website for *The San Francisco Chronicle*) quoted Applicant as responding the question “What does Bush’s victory mean to you?” Applicant answered, “Initially it signals depression. I think what depresses me most is that the Democrats couldn't beat a lame president. Almost half those who voted for Kerry only did so because they were against Bush, not for Kerry. Unbelievable. Ultimately it means that I continue working within the progressive community to stop the social injustice that comes at the hands of Bush and Company.”

Bureau staff contacted Don Simmons, the author of one of Applicant’s letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Mr. Simmons confirmed the information in the letter and added that he serves with Applicant on the Fresno Historic Preservation Commission. He stated that Applicant is always very considerate and makes sure everyone is heard at the meetings. Mr. Simmons also stated that Applicant listens to everyone and is often the last to comment. He believes that Applicant has a general respect for all people and would not be intimidated by serving with other commissioners. Mr. Simmons added that Applicant can hold her own in any group but is very professional even when dealing with contentious issues and understands that disagreements are not personal.

Recommendation: None.

Name and title of person submitting response: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report Date: September 15, 2010